

BLACK MOUNTAIN COLLEGE BULLETIN

Volume I Number 5

August 1943

GRADUATION AT BLACK MOUNTAIN

Black Mountain College has a highly trained and competent faculty, including distinguished scholars and artists from America and abroad. The majority have had, beyond actual teaching, widely varied life experiences and a number are persons of international reputation. The ratio of teacher to student at Black Mountain is one to four.

Black Mountain makes academic achievement only part of its educational philosophy, and sees non-intellectual work and community living as definitely important in the development of a whole person. Because of the nature of the life and work in the community, students have an unusual opportunity for constant daily association with members of the staff, both inside and outside the classroom.

The environment naturally resulting from such close association is conducive to emphasis at Black Mountain upon seriousness of purpose and excellence of accomplishment.

It is no doubt due to this emphasis that, in ten short years, the leading universities of America have come to look with approval upon students recommended to them by the Black Mountain College faculty.

The Black Mountain program is in many ways unique. Progress in college and ability to graduate are not mechanically measured. They depend upon individual initiative, ability and achievement.

JUNIOR DIVISION

All entering students are placed in the Junior Division, which is conceived as a period of study, usually about two years, during which students get a strong foundation for later more specialized work in the Senior Division. The Junior Division also serves as a period of exploration, during which they may familiarize themselves with the main areas of knowledge: the Arts, the Languages and Literature, the Social Studies and the Natural Sciences.

Entering students usually do not know in what field they wish to specialize or the kind of work they wish to take up after leaving college. Often they make decisions based on ignorance, prejudice or illusion. In the Junior Division they should find their way, broaden their horizons and acquire needed tools.